

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A spinal implant system, comprising:
a vertebral prosthesis having a support and an endplate, the vertebral prosthesis having a longitudinal axis configured to be aligned along the axis of a spine;
an artificial spinal disc coupled to the endplate, the endplate having a structure adapted to interlock with the artificial spinal disc; and
a pedicle screw retainer coupled to at least one of the endplate and the support, the pedicle screw retainer comprising:
a top,
a bottom,
a side wall defined between the top and the bottom, and
at least one aperture defined in the side wall, the aperture having an axis generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the vertebral prosthesis, wherein the aperture is configured to receive a pedicle screw extending through a pedicle located adjacent to the pedicle screw retainer.
2. (Cancelled).
3. (Previously Presented) The spinal implant system of claim 1, wherein the structure prevents rotation of the artificial spinal disc relative to the endplate.
4. (Cancelled).
5. (Previously Presented) The spinal implant system of claim 1, wherein the structure is at least one of a flange and a recess.

6. (Original) The spinal implant system of claim 1, wherein the endplate and the support are adapted to be threaded, snapped, or twist-locked onto one another.

7. (Currently Amended) A spinal implant system, comprising:
a vertebral prosthesis having a support and an endplate, the vertebral prosthesis having a longitudinal axis configured to be aligned along the axis of a spine;
an artificial spinal disc coupled to the endplate; and
a pedicle screw retainer coupled to at least one of the endplate and the support, the pedicle screw retainer comprising:
a top,
a bottom,
a side wall defined between the top and the bottom, and
at least one aperture defined in the side wall, the aperture having an axis generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the vertebral prosthesis, wherein the aperture is configured to receive a pedicle screw extending through a pedicle located adjacent to the pedicle screw retainer.

8. (Original) The spinal implant system of claim 1, wherein the support is adjustable to change the height of the support.

9. (Original) The spinal implant system of claim 8, further comprising a second endplate coupled to the support, the second endplate adapted to be coupled to a second artificial spinal disc.

10. (Withdrawn) The spinal implant system of claim 8, further comprising a second endplate coupled to the support, the second endplate having teeth adapted to be coupled to a bone.

11. (Currently Amended) A vertebral prosthesis system including a vertebral prosthesis and a spinal disc prosthesis, the vertebral prosthesis comprising:

a shaft having a longitudinal axis configured to be aligned along the axis of a spine;

an endplate coupled to one end of the shaft, the endplate adapted to be implanted adjacent the disc prosthesis, thereby obviating the need to fuse the endplate to an adjacent vertebra; and

a pedicle screw retainer coupled to at least one of the shaft and the endplate, the pedicle screw retainer comprising:

a top,

a bottom,

a side wall defined between the top and the bottom, and

at least one aperture defined in the side wall, the aperture having an axis generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the shaft, wherein the aperture is configured to receive a pedicle screw extending through a pedicle located adjacent to the pedicle screw retainer.

12. (Withdrawn) The vertebral prosthesis system of claim 11, further comprising a second endplate coupled to an other end of the shaft, wherein the second endplate comprises one or more teeth configured to directly interface with an other adjacent vertebra, thereby allowing fusion of the vertebral prosthesis with the other adjacent vertebra while preserving motion between the vertebral prosthesis and the adjacent vertebra.

13. (Previously Presented) The vertebral prosthesis system of claim 11, further comprising a second endplate, wherein the second endplate is adapted to be implanted adjacent a second disc prosthesis.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously Presented) The vertebral prosthesis system of claim 11, wherein the endplate and the shaft are adapted to be screwed, threaded, snapped, or twist-locked onto one another.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Previously Presented) The vertebral prosthesis system of claim 11, wherein the height of the shaft is adjustable.

18. (Withdrawn) The vertebral prosthesis system of claim 11, wherein the shaft is at least partially constructed of a mesh.

19-20. (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A vertebral prosthesis system including a vertebral prosthesis and an artificial spinal disc, the vertebral prosthesis comprising:

a shaft having a longitudinal axis configured to be aligned along the axis of a spine;

a first endplate coupled to a first end of the shaft, the first endplate having a recess adapted to receive the artificial spinal disc;

a second endplate coupled to a second end of the shaft; and

a pedicle screw retainer coupled to at least one of the shaft, the first endplate, and the second endplate, the pedicle screw retainer comprising:

a top,

a bottom,

a side wall defined between the top and the bottom, and

at least one aperture defined in the side wall, the aperture having an axis generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the shaft, wherein the aperture is configured to receive a pedicle screw extending through a pedicle located adjacent to the pedicle screw retainer.

22. (Withdrawn) The vertebral prosthesis system of claim 21, wherein the second endplate comprises one or more teeth configured to interface with an adjacent vertebra.

23. (Previously Presented) The vertebral prosthesis system of claim 21, wherein the second endplate has a second recess adapted to receive a second artificial spinal disc.

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Previously Presented) The vertebral prosthesis system of claim 21, wherein the first endplate and the shaft are adapted to be screwed, threaded, snapped, or twist-locked onto one another.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Previously Presented) The vertebral prosthesis system of claim 21, wherein the shaft is adjustable to change the height of the shaft.

28. (Withdrawn) The vertebral prosthesis system of claim 21, wherein the shaft is at least partially constructed of a mesh.

29. (Previously Presented) The vertebral prosthesis system of claim 21, wherein the recess prevents rotation of the artificial spinal disc relative to the first endplate.

30. (Previously Presented) The vertebral prosthesis system of claim 29, wherein the second endplate has a second recess adapted to receive a second artificial spinal disc.

31. (Cancelled).

32. (Currently Amended) A vertebral prosthesis compatible with multiple disc prostheses, comprising:

a shaft having a longitudinal axis configured to be aligned along the axis of a spine;

an endplate tray coupled to the shaft, wherein the endplate tray is implanted adjacent either one of a first artificial disc having a first shape or a second artificial disc having a second shape, wherein the first shape is different from the second shape; and

a pedicle screw retainer coupled to at least one of the shaft and the endplate tray, the pedicle screw retainer comprising:

a top,

a bottom,
a side wall defined between the top and the bottom, and
at least one aperture defined in the side wall, the aperture having an axis
generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the shaft, wherein the aperture is configured to
receive a pedicle screw extending through a pedicle located adjacent to the pedicle screw
retainer.

33. (Cancelled).

34. (Original) The vertebral prosthesis compatible with multiple disc prostheses of claim 32, wherein the endplate tray and the shaft are adapted to be screwed, threaded, snapped, or twist-locked onto one another.

35. (Cancelled).

36. (Original) The vertebral prosthesis compatible with multiple disc prostheses of claim 32, wherein the shaft is adjustable to change the height of the shaft.

37. (Withdrawn) The vertebral prosthesis compatible with multiple disc prostheses of claim 32, wherein the shaft is at least partially constructed of a mesh.

38. (Original) The vertebral prosthesis compatible with multiple disc prostheses of claim 32, wherein the first artificial disc is manufactured by a first manufacturer and the second artificial disc is manufactured by a second manufacturer, wherein the first manufacturer is different from the second manufacturer.

39. (Previously Presented) A vertebral prosthesis system having interchangeable endplates, comprising:

a shaft;

a first endplate having a first side adapted to be coupled to a first end of the shaft and a second side coupled to a first artificial disc; and

a second endplate having a first side adapted to be coupled to the first end of the shaft in place of the first endplate and a second side coupled to a second artificial disc, the second artificial disc having a different configuration from the first artificial disc; and
a pedicle screw retainer coupled at least one of the shaft, the first endplate, and the second endplate.

40. (Cancelled).

41. (Original) The vertebral prosthesis system having interchangeable endplates of claim 39, wherein the first endplate and the shaft are adapted to be screwed onto one another.

42. (Cancelled).

43. (Withdrawn) The vertebral prosthesis system having interchangeable endplates of claim 39, wherein the shaft is at least partially constructed of a mesh.

44-60. (Cancelled).

61. (Currently Amended) A spinal implant system, comprising:
a vertebral prosthesis having a support and an endplate, wherein the support is adjustable to change the height of the vertebral prosthesis, the vertebral prosthesis having a longitudinal axis configured to be aligned along the axis of a spine;
a pedicle screw adapted to secure the vertebral prosthesis to a pedicle; ~~and~~
an artificial spinal disc coupled to the endplate; and
a pedicle screw retainer coupled to at least one of the endplate and the support, the pedicle screw retainer comprising:

a top,

a bottom,

a side wall defined between the top and the bottom, and

at least one aperture defined in the side wall, the aperture having an axis generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the vertebral prosthesis, wherein the aperture

is configured to receive a pedicle screw extending through a pedicle located adjacent to the pedicle screw retainer.

62. (Previously Presented) The spinal implant system of claim 61, further comprising a pedicle screw retainer coupled to at least one of the endplate and the support, wherein the pedicle screw retainer comprises an aperture adapted to receive the pedicle screw to secure the pedicle screw to the vertebral prosthesis.

63. (Previously Presented) The spinal implant system of claim 61, wherein the support comprises a first portion slidably received in a second portion and wherein the height of the vertebral prosthesis is adjusted by sliding the first portion relative to the second portion.

64. (Previously Presented) The spinal implant system of claim 63, further comprising a locking ring adapted to secure the first portion relative to the second portion.

65. (Previously Presented) The spinal implant system of claim 64, further comprising a set of interlocking teeth on the first portion and the second portion, the interlocking teeth adapted to engage one another to secure the first portion relative to the second portion.

66. (Withdrawn) The spinal implant system of claim 61, wherein the support is at least partially constructed of a mesh.

67. (Cancelled).

68. (Previously Presented) The spinal implant system of claim 61, wherein the endplate has a structure adapted to interlock with the artificial spinal disc.

69. (Previously Presented) The spinal implant system of claim 61, further comprising a second endplate coupled to the support, the second endplate adapted to be coupled to a second artificial spinal disc.

70. (Withdrawn) The spinal implant system of claim 61, further comprising a second endplate coupled to the support, the second endplate having teeth adapted to be coupled to a bone.